

MAR 13 2015

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## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CONVENE A SPECIAL  
EDUCATION TASK FORCE TO EVALUATE PROGRESS TOWARD  
IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE *HAWAII DEPARTMENT  
OF EDUCATION SPECIAL EDUCATION REVIEW* AND MAKE  
RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE REGARDING WAYS TO  
IMPROVE DELIVERY OF SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES AND SUPPORTS  
TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.

1 WHEREAS, students with disabilities are entitled to a free  
2 and appropriate public education; and  
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4 WHEREAS, there are significant costs associated with  
5 providing transportation to students with disabilities; and  
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7 WHEREAS, the cost of providing special education and  
8 related services was thirty percent of the Department of  
9 Education's instructional budget in fiscal year 2013-2014; and  
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11 WHEREAS, only one of four students with disabilities  
12 demonstrates proficiency in reading while three out of four of  
13 their non-disabled peers are proficient; and  
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15 WHEREAS, the growth rate in reading and mathematics  
16 proficiency for students with disabilities, as measured by the  
17 Department of Education's StriveHI Performance System, is less  
18 than that of their non-disabled peers; and  
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20 WHEREAS, the achievement gap between students with  
21 disabilities and non-disabled students has been stagnant over  
22 the past five years, despite reform efforts; and  
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24 WHEREAS, the chronic absenteeism rate for students with  
25 disabilities is greater than for their non-disabled peers; and  
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27 WHEREAS, the suspension rate for students with disabilities  
28 is greater than for their non-disabled peers; and



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2 WHEREAS, the graduation rate for students with disabilities  
3 was more than twenty percentage points lower than for their non-  
4 disabled peers in the 2013-2014 school year; and  
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6 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii has been found to have  
7 improperly implemented its special education programs, and  
8 continues to face legal action alleging improper implementation  
9 of special education programs; and  
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11 WHEREAS, the Department of Education commissioned the  
12 *Hawaii Department of Education Special Education Review* by the  
13 WestEd Center for Prevention and Early Intervention in 2010 to  
14 identify areas for improving the delivery of special education  
15 services; and  
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17 WHEREAS, the review identified numerous areas for  
18 improvement including improvements to the overall special  
19 education system and structure, alignment of resources to ensure  
20 system effectiveness and accountability for results, and  
21 building capacity to meet legal requirements and move to a focus  
22 on instruction and student performance; now, therefore,  
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24 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth  
25 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, the  
26 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
27 Education is requested to convene a special education task force  
28 to evaluate the Department of Education's progress in  
29 implementing the recommendations of the *Hawaii Department of*  
30 *Education Special Education Review* and make recommendations  
31 regarding ways to improve delivery of special education services  
32 and supports to improve outcomes for students with disabilities;  
33 and  
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the special education task  
36 force be composed of the following members:  
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38 (1) Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Education, or  
39 the Chairperson's designee;  
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41 (2) Chairperson of the House of Representatives Committee  
42 on Education, or the Chairperson's designee;



- (3) Chairperson of the Board of Education, or the Chairperson's designee;
- (4) Chairperson of the Special Education Advisory Council, or the Chairperson's designee;
- (5) Superintendent of Education, or the Superintendent's designee;
- (6) Federal Programs Officer of the Department of Education, or the Officer's designee;
- (7) Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Education, or the Chief Financial Officer's designee;
- (8) A representative from the general membership of the Special Education Advisory Council;
- (9) A representative from the Learning Disabilities Association of Hawaii's Parent Training and Information Center; and
- (10) A representative from the Community Children's Councils; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the special education task force submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2016; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, Chairperson of the Special Education Advisory Council, Executive Director of the Learning Disabilities Association of Hawaii, and Chairpersons of the Community Children's Councils.

OFFERED BY:

Michelle Tidani

